THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The Techon-Economic Feasibility Report submitted by M/s. RITBS has been examined in great detail. A High Power Committee of Directions under the Chairmanship of Lt. Govenor, Delhi and a Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary , Delhi has been constituted. These Committees, will, *inter-alia*. coordinate and oversee the preparatory actions of various agencies which would be involved in the setting of the MRTS in Delhi.

(b) The Delhi Administration has entrusted M/s. RITES with the task of detailed locational survey reports. The project cost as estimated by RITBS in their report, is Rs. 5378 crores, including foreign exchange worth Rs. 529.6 crores, at 1989 price level. These figures have not been updated.

(c) A project of this magnitude requires funding from various sources including budgetary support from Government, surplus from property development, taxes and levies, suppliers credit, funding from bilateral and multilateral sources which require to be identified before any decision is taken.

(d) The whole project is in the preliminary stage and hence it is too premature to decide upon the date of commencement of work upon MRTS.

Abolition of the practice of carrying night soil on head

710. SHRI BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the practice of carrying night soil on head is still in vogue in the country;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to do away with this practice;

(c) whether Government propose to enact some laws in order to ban this practice;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the names of states, where this practice has been banned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India has since launched the scheme of Low Cost Sanitation and Liberation of Seavengers. Guidelines have been circulated to the State Governments and Union Territories for implementation of the scheme in a time bound manner. The scheme envisages conversion of dry latrines/ construction of new low cost water seal pour flush latrines on a 'whole town' bais in 500 towns annually. It is being operated through the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) by providing a mix of subsidy from the Central Government and loans from HUDCO in a synchronised manner. The State Governments have been requested to amend the municipal by-laws to prevent further construction of dry latrines. They have also been requested to ensure conversion of dry latrines in Government buildings immediately. A Coordination Committee has been set up in the Ministry of Urban Development for clearance of the proposals received from the State Governments. Review meetings are held from time to time to energise the impelmentation of the scheme.

(c) to (e) Since sanitation is a State Subject, a proposal for a Central legislation for making the employment of manual scavening a punishable offence from a future date, is being pursued with the State Government.

Completion of Subarnarekha Project

711. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an inordinate delay in the completion of multi-purpose Subarnarekha project;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) by when the project is expected to be completed ; and

(d) the steps taken to expedite the implementation of the project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) to (c) Subarnarekha Multi purpose Project originally programmed to be compluted in VII Plan, has been delay due to paucity of funds, delay in lan acquistion, rehabilitation and resettlement of project affected people and changes in scopes and design of the project. The project is now scheduled to spill over beyond VIII Plan.